

Ser. No. 10/021,899

Response to Office Action of 2 October 2004

Atty Docket 117163-34

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please amend the claims so that they read as follows:

1. (previously presented) A method of applying a marker element to an implant intended for implantation in a human or an animal body, said implant comprising a main body and an opening provided in said main body for receiving the marker element, comprising the steps of:
introducing a hardenable material or material mix into the opening, and
hardening the hardenable material or material mix therein to form at least a part of the marker element.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the material or material mix is flowable or pourable.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the material or material mix is a sinterable granular material or powder.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the material or material mix is joined ~~and in particular welded~~ to the material of the main body during the hardening step.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hardening step includes an endothermic step and at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced locally in the region of the opening.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced by targeted irradiation in the region of the opening, ~~in particular with laser radiation.~~
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced by ultrasound.

Ser. No. 10/021,899

Response to Office Action of 2 October 2004

Atty Docket 117163-34

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hardening step includes an endothermic step and at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced electrically by producing a flow of current through the material or material mix arranged in the region of the opening.

Claim 9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the material or material mix is cold-setting.

Claims 11-15 (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the material or material mix is joined ~~and in particular welded~~ to the material of the main body during the hardening step.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the hardening step includes an endothermic step and at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced locally in the region of the opening.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the hardening step includes an endothermic step and at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced locally in the region of the opening.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the hardening step includes an endothermic step and at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced locally in the region of the opening.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the hardening step includes an endothermic step and at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced locally in the region of the opening.

Ser. No. 10/021,899

Response to Office Action of 2 October 2004

Atty Docket 117163-34

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced by targeted irradiation in the region of the opening, ~~in particular with laser radiation.~~

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced by targeted irradiation in the region of the opening, ~~in particular with laser radiation.~~

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced by targeted irradiation in the region of the opening, ~~in particular with laser radiation.~~

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced by targeted irradiation in the region of the opening, ~~in particular with laser radiation.~~

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced by ultrasound.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced by ultrasound.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced by ultrasound.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein at least a part of the process energy in the endothermic step is introduced by ultrasound.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the material or material mix is amalgam.

Ser. No. 10/021,899
Response to Office Action of 2 October 2004
Atty Docket 117163-34

Claims 30-36 (cancelled)

37. (new) The method of claim 4, wherein the joining step is done by welding.
38. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein the targeted irradiation is laser radiation.
39. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein the joining step is done by welding.
40. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the targeted irradiation is laser radiation.
41. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the targeted irradiation is laser radiation.
42. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the targeted irradiation is laser radiation.
43. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the targeted irradiation is laser radiation.
44. (new) A method of applying a marker element to an implant intended for implantation in a human or an animal body, said implant comprising a main body and an opening provided in said main body for receiving the marker element, comprising the steps of:
introducing a hardenable material or material mix into the opening; and
hardening the hardenable material or material mix therein to form at least a part of the marker element;
wherein both the introducing step and the hardening step are effected by galvanic deposit.
45. (new) A method of applying a marker element to an implant intended for implantation in a human or an animal body, said implant comprising a main body and an opening provided in said main body for receiving the marker element, comprising the steps of:
introducing a granular solid material or material mix into the opening, and
consolidating the granular solid material or material mix therein to form at least a part of the marker element.